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DEBORAH'S SONG.¹

Deborah's Song (Judges 5) is undoubtedly antiphonal ; and its antiphony is probably between a chorus of men, led by Barak, and a chorus of women, led by Deborah (compare verse 1).

REFRAIN

Men For that the leaders took the lead in Israel—
Women For that the people offered themselves willingly—
Tutti Bless ye the LORD.

PROEM

Men Hear, O ye kings—
Women Give ear, O ye princes—
Men I, even I, will sing unto the LORD —
Women I will sing praise to the LORD, the God of Israel.

APOSTROPHE

Tutti Lord, when thou wentest forth out of Seir,
When thou marchedst out of the field of Edom,
The earth trembled, the heavens also dropped,
Yea, the clouds dropped water.
The mountains flowed down at the presence of the LORD,
Even yon Sinai at the presence of the LORD, the God of
Israel.

I THE DESOLATION.

Men In the days of Shamgar the son of Anath,
In the days of Jael,
The highways were unoccupied,
And the travelers walked through byways.
The rulers ceased in Israel,
They ceased—

¹ As arranged by Professor Richard G. Moulton. See *The Literary Study of the Bible*, pages 65 to 67.

Women Until that I, Deborah, arose,
 That I arose a mother in Israel.
 They chose new gods ;
 Then was war in the gates :
 Was there a shield or spear seen
 Among forty thousand in Israel ?

REFRAIN ENLARGED

Men My heart is towards the governors of Israel—
Women Ye that offered yourselves willingly among the people—
Tutti Bless ye the LORD.
Men Tell of it, ye that ride on white asses,
 Ye that sit on rich carpets,
 And ye that walk by the way :—
Women Far from the noise of archers, in the places of drawing
 water,
 There shall they rehearse the righteous acts of the LORD,
 Even the righteous acts of his rule in Israel.

II THE MUSTER

Tutti Then the people of the LORD went down to the gates—
 (*Men* Awake, awake, Deborah,
 Awake, awake, utter a song :—
Women Arise, Barak,
 And lead thy captivity captive, thou son of Abinoam.)
Tutti Then came down a remnant of the nobles,
 The people of the LORD came down for me among the
 mighty.
Women Out of Ephraim came down they whose root is in Amalek—
Men After thee, Benjamin, among thy peoples—
Women Out of Machir came down governors—
Men And out of Zebulon they that handle the marshal's staff—
Women And the princes of Issachar were with Deborah—
Men As was Issachar, so was Barak :
Tutti Into the valley they rushed down at his feet.
Men By the watercourses of Reuben
 There were great resolves of heart.

Women Why satest thou among the sheepfolds,
To hear the pipings of the flocks ?

Men At the watercourses of Reuben
There were great searchings of heart !

Women Gilead abode beyond Jordan —

Men And Dan, why did he remain in ships ?

Women Asher sat still at the haven of the sea,
And abode by his creeks :

Tutti Zebulon was a people that jeopardated their lives unto the
death,
And Naphtali, upon the high places of the field.

III THE BATTLE AND ROUT.

Strophe.

Men The kings came and fought ;
Then fought the kings of Canaan,
In Taanach by the waters of Megiddo :—
They took no gain of money !

Antistrophe.

Women They fought from heaven,
The stars in their courses fought against Sisera.
The river Kishon swept them away,—
That ancient river, the river Kishon !

Strophe.

Men O my soul, march on with strength !
Then did the horsehoofs stamp
By reason of the pransings,
The pransings of their strong ones.

Antistrophe

Women Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the LORD,
Curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof ;
Because they came not to the help of the LORD,
To the help of the LORD against the mighty !

IV THE RETRIBUTION

Strophe

Men Blessed above women shall Jael be,
 The wife of Heber the Kenite,
 Blessed shall she be above women in the tent !
 He asked water, and she gave him milk ;
 She brought him butter in a lordly dish.
 She put her hand to the nail,
 And her right hand to the workman's hammer ;
 And with the hammer she smote Sisera,
 She smote through his head,
 Yea, she pierced and struck through his temples.
 At her feet he bowed, he fell, he lay :
 At her feet he bowed, he fell :
 Where he bowed, there he fell down dead !

Antistrophe

Women Through the window she looked forth and cried,
 The mother of Sisera, through the lattice,
 " Why is his chariot so long in coming ?
 Why tarry the wheels of his chariot ? "
 Her wise ladies answered her,
 Yea, she returned answer to herself,
 " Have they not found,
 Have they not divided the spoil ?
 A damsel, two damsels to every man ;
 To Sisera a spoil of divers colours,
 A spoil of divers colours of embroidery,
 Of divers colours of embroidery on both sides,
 On the necks of the spoil ? "

APOSTROPHE

Tutti So let all thine enemies perish, O LORD :
 But let them that love him be as the sun that goeth forth
 in his might.